

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed January 30, 2006 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-26 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 12, and 16 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 12, and 16 are each amended to recite “storing configuration information in a configuration database, the configuration information comprising one set of configuration information for each class of the plurality of classes of endpoint devices, such that each class is associated with a different variety of endpoint device and each one set of configuration information is applicable to all endpoint devices in the each class”. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at page 6, lines 1-3; page 7, lines 17-19; and page 11, lines 5-8 of the original specification.

Claims 21-23 are amended to recite that “the plurality of classes include a VoIP phone class, a computer workstation class, a switch class, and a router class”. Support for this limitation is found at page 7, lines 15-17.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,012,088 (Li).

Li fails to disclose, teach or suggest a configuration database storing information “comprising one set of configuration information for each class of the plurality of classes of endpoint devices, such that each class is associated with a different variety of endpoint device and each one set of configuration information is applicable to all endpoint devices in the each

class”, as now recited in independent claims 1, 12, and 16, because Li discloses that the stored configuration information is applicable to a specific customer registration identification number related to only a single type of device, i.e., an Internet access device for one specific customer.

Li discloses a method for automatically configuring an Internet access device. The Internet access device is a device which facilitates communication between end users and the Internet (see col. 6, lines 34-37 of Li). According to the method of Li, a customer first contacts an Internet service provider (ISP) and informs the ISP of the specific needs for connection to the Internet (col. 9, lines 26-49). The ISP then inputs the information into an ISP database and generates a configuration file which is stored in a configuration server (col. 9, lines 50-57 and col. 10, lines 6-8). Once the ISP has determined an IP address for the configuration server that holds the configuration file, the ISP generates a registration identification number for the customer (col. 10, lines 19-22). Once the registration number is generated, the ISP then ships the Internet access device to the customer, along with the registration ID and a number for accessing the ISP (col. 10, line 66 - col. 11, line 1). Once a customer receives the Internet access device, the registration ID and the access number, the customer connects the Internet access device and inputs the registration ID and the access number (col. 11, lines 45-58). The Internet access device connects to the ISP with a minimum of configuration (col. 11, lines 63-65). The registration ID is used in an automatic configuration process which configures the Internet access device for communication at the customer's desired level of service (col. 12, lines 13-17).

Since Li discloses that configuration information is stored in a configuration server based on a registration ID of a user, Li fails to teach or suggest a configuration database storing information “comprising one set of configuration information for each class of the plurality of classes of endpoint devices, such that each class is associated with a different variety

of endpoint device and each one set of configuration information is applicable to all endpoint devices in the each class”, as now recited in independent claims 1, 12, and 16. Furthermore, Li does not disclose configuring an endpoint device. Rather, Li discloses configuring an Internet access device which facilitates communication between endpoint devices of end users and the Internet.

In the response to our arguments regarding the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner addresses the recited step of "identifying a class" by stating that Li discloses that the device can be a router or a plurality of classes. While Li does indeed state that the Internet access device may comprise a router, Li fails to disclose “identifying, through said established connection, a class of the endpoint device connected to the network”. That is, Li does not identify the class or type of device through the established connection. In fact, Li does not expressly disclose any identification of the class of the Internet access device. That is because Li discloses configuring only one type of device. End users having various devices are connected to the Internet access device that is configured by Li. Since all the devices to be configured are the same, i.e., Internet access devices, Li can not identify the configuration file by the class of the device. Instead, Li discloses identifying the customer’s configuration file using the customer’s registration ID.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, 12, and 16 are allowable over Li.

Dependent claims 2, 14, and 17 each recite that a second unique network address is "selected from a block of predetermined network addresses for the identified class of the endpoint device". As stated above, Li does not have to identify a class of the device being configured because it is always an Internet access device. Accordingly, there is no reason to assign a second unique network address based on an identified class of the endpoint or to have a

block of predetermined network addresses for the identified class of the endpoint device, as recited in dependent claims 2, 14, and 17. Therefore, dependent claims 2, 14, and 17 are each allowable for these additional reasons.

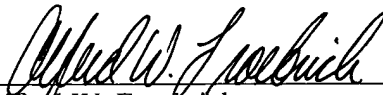
Claims 21-23 identify specific classes of components and recite that "the plurality of classes include a VoIP phone class, a computer workstation class, a switch class, and a router class". Since Li discloses only that the Internet access device may be a router, Li fails to teach this limitation. Dependent claims 21-23 should be allowable for these additional reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

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